GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3647
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002
DEVOLVING MORE POWERS TO GRAM SABHA
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to devolve more power to the Gram Sabha in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (c): According to Article 243-A of the Constitution, the State Legislaturemay, by law, provide powers and functions to Gram Sabha. While empowering of Gram Sabha with financial and functional powers is primarily the concern of the States and Union Territories, the Central Government have been pursuing the matter with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for devolution of powers to the Gram Sabhas, through Review Meetings and correspondence with the State Chief Ministers and Ministers of Panchayati Raj. A Conference held in July, 2001 at New Delhi, resolved that the Gram Sabha should be held four times in a year at pre-determined dates so that the concerned officials could be present.

Some States/Union Territories have devolved powers to the Gram Sabhas in varying degrees.